

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 EA-09 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07 FEA-01

TRSE-00 OES-05 ACDA-10 OIC-02 /144 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1804

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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TAGS: EGEN, UNGA, CS

SUBJECT: UNGA SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION -- GENERAL DEBATE

SPEECH BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DELEGATION OF COSTA
RICA, FERNANDO SALAZAR

1. SUMMARY. URGING THE SESSION TO ABOLISH UNJUST RELATIONS BETWEEN THE RICH AND POOR, SALAZAR NOTED THAT RECENT CHANGES IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS DEMONSTRATED THAT THE "WEAK CAN BE STRONG" IF THEY JOIN TOGETHER. AFTER REVIEWING SARCASTICALLY COSTA RICA'S EXPERIENCE WITH OPEC "AID" AND EXPRESSING REGRET THAT PROPOSALS OF SEVERAL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES INCORPORATED ONLY POLICIES OF THE "OLD ORDER," SALAZAR REAFFIRMED COSTA RICAN SUPPORT FOR OPEC. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THE GREAT COST OF THIS SUPPORT AND URGED OPEC COUNTRIES TO REALIZE THAT "THEY CANNOT CONTINUE IN THIS VEIN" AS LONG AS OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITHOUT OIL ARE UNABLE TO INCREASE THE PRICES OF THEIR COMMODITY EXPORTS. HE CONCLUDED BY HIGH-LIGHTING DISARMAMENT AND FOOD PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

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2. SALAZAR NOTED THAT DRAMATIC CHANGES IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS, ESPECIALLY THE UNPRECEDENTED TRANSFER OF RESOURCES, DEMONSTRATED THAT "THE WEAK CAN BE STRONG, GIVEN THE NECESSARY PREREQUISITE OF UNITY AND COMPLETE SOLIDARITY." HE CALLED FOR THE SESSION TO END THE ERA OF UNJUST RELATIONS BETWEEN THE RICH AND POOR.

3. HE REVIEWED SARCASTICALLY COSTA RICA'S EXPERIENCE WITH OPEC AID, STATING, "WE HAVE ALREADY HAD EXPERIENCE OF THE 'AID' THE OIL COUNTRIES ARE GIVING IN THE FORM OF LOANS GRANTED AT EXTREMELY HIGH INTEREST RATES AND WITH TOUGH COMPLIANCE CLAUSES."

4. IN THE FIELD OF RAW MATERIALS, SALAZAR ARGUED FOR A NEW SYSTEM OF FAIR RAW MATERIAL PRICES AS THE GENUINE FOUNDATION FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND EXPRESSED REGRET THAT PROPOSALS PRESENTED BY SEVERAL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES INCORPORATED ONLY SUGGESTIONS "THAT FOR US BELONG TO THE OLD ORDER." IN A SOMEWHAT CONFUSING MANNER, SALAZAR REAFFIRMED THAT "WE JOIN OPEC COUNTRIES IN THEIR STRUGGLE," BUT ALSO NOTED THAT THIS SUPPORT "COULD NOT BUT BE A TERRIBLE BLOW FOR THE WEAK ECONOMIES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND MY COUNTRY IS A WITNESS TO THIS SACRIFICE." HE CALLED ON OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES TO RECOGNIZE THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THIS "BLOW" AND URGED THEM TO REALIZE THAT "THEY CANNOT CONTINUE IN THIS VEIN AS LONG AS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH LACK OIL ARE UNABLE TO OBTAIN SIMILAR PRICES FOR THEIR BASIC COMMODITIES." HE CONCLUDED THAT COSTA RICA'S "COSTLY SUPPORT" FOR OPEC COUNTRIES WAS THUS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THEY WOULD IN TURN MAKE COMMON CAUSE WITH COSTA RICA.

5. ON DISARMAMENT AND FOOD ISSUES, SALAZAR URGED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO REDUCE COSTLY AND WASTEFUL MILITARY EXPENDITURE, AND HE REVIEWED COSTA RICA'S EFFORTS SINCE 1952 TO FOCUS UN ATTENTION ON THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM AND TO GENERATE UN SUPPORT FOR A SYSTEM OF WORLDWIDE FOOD RESERVES.
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